



HQ AETC News Clips

Randolph AFB TX



News Clips are compiled for the AETC Commander and staff by AETC/PA. Copyright restrictions apply. **04-Mar-04**

AF secretary outlines investigation of assaults

Web Posted: 03/04/2004 12:00 AM CST

Sig Christenson
Express-News Military Writer

Air Force Secretary James Roche said Wednesday that a rash of sexual assaults reported in the armed services last year bears similarities to problems at American universities — with a combination of youthful inexperience and alcohol being key factors.

In his first comments on the Air Force's handling of sexual assault allegations since an investigation began at Sheppard AFB in North Texas, Roche revealed that his Pacific command last fall began a review of rapes reported over a 10-year period.

That probe was launched in response to a scandal that rocked the Air Force Academy and has since sparked studies at installations worldwide. So far, he added, those investigations are giving Air Force leaders a clearer picture of the problem.

"Alcohol is big," Roche said, when asked what to list the common denominators in the cases the Air Force has studied. "People between 18 and 24, typically unmarried. In the case of Sheppard as well as the Air Force Academy, probably the first time away from parents."

The Air Force last week told the San Antonio Express-News it will scrutinize all its installations to learn if there are problems similar to those reported at Sheppard. Two dozen women claim to have been sexually assaulted by fellow airmen during the past year at weekend parties off the installation.

The Air Education and Training Command at Randolph AFB, meanwhile, has established a toll-free hot line for women who had served at 13 AETC bases across the country since the command's inception in 1993.

Four women have called the hot line, (888) 351-9477, since it first opened Feb. 19, AETC spokesman Dave Smith said. Two asked for support information but did not make specific allegations. The others reported incidents in 1966 and 1974, he said, adding: "They didn't provide us any names, they didn't provide us locations."

Five of the AETC bases are in Texas, including Lackland and Randolph in San Antonio. The others are Laughlin in Del Rio, Goodfellow in San Angelo and Sheppard in Wichita Falls.

Roche stressed the Air Force has been concerned about the issue since revelations emerged of misconduct at its elite academy in Colorado Springs, Colo. An investigation is under way into 56 reported sexual assaults there since 1993.

Neither Air Force headquarters in the Pentagon nor a spokesman with the Pacific command in Honolulu would provide details of its investigation Wednesday. The Pacific command's chief, Gen. Bill Begert, was en route to Washington to brief leaders on his findings.

San Antonio Express News

PAGE: Internet

POSTED: 04 Mar 04



HQ AETC News Clips

Randolph AFB TX



News Clips are compiled for the AETC Commander and staff by AETC/PA. Copyright restrictions apply. **04-Mar-04**

But Roche, in a half-hour telephone interview, said most sexual assaults studied by the Pacific command involved people of similar ranks. The command also found the incidents occurred at on-base parties, and that victims' support services stopped if an investigation ended.

Days before the first news reports emerged of trouble at Sheppard, Roche said he and Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper agreed to expand the Pacific command's survey to every one of the service's 80 major installations.

Each of the Air Force's nine major commands will model their probes on the Air Force Academy and Pacific command's investigations, he said, noting that AETC's chief, Gen. Donald Cook, had already begun a preliminary study at Sheppard.

Roche said Cook will decide if the Air Force can transfer students to new duty stations while their claims are investigated and settled in court. He also said the Sheppard probe showed that the processing of rape tests, now done at an Army laboratory, takes too long — leaving airmen in limbo for up to six months.

It will be up to Cook and the other leaders of the Air Force's major commands to lead their investigations and settle such matters, said Roche, who dismissed notions among some observers that military culture itself causes some of the problems.

"(Airmen) have a dedication to each other, to worry about each other, to care for each other, respect each other, that you don't find at the University of Illinois or the University of Michigan or the University of Maryland or Virginia," he said. "I think the military culture gives us the chance to deal with this problem better than, say, a university president can."



AETC Bases News Clips

LUKE AFB, AZ



News Clips are compiled for the AETC Commander and staff by AETC/PA. Copyright restrictions apply. **04-Mar-04**

Pentagon's closing criteria may favor Luke

By ANNIE KARSTENS
Surprise Today

Local lawmakers say Luke Air Force Base is still a possible target for closure despite recent developments in the Pentagon that appear to work in favor of preserving the base.

The Pentagon has announced its criteria for the nation's next round of military base closures with the focus primarily on the military value of facilities, including land available for training and available airspace.

In Arizona, the five major bases that could be affected by the closures are Luke in Glendale, Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in Tucson, Fort Huachuca in Sierra Vista, the Yuma Proving Ground and the Yuma Marine Corps Air Station.

Peoria Mayor John Keegan said that

although the Pentagon's criteria bodes well for Luke, the threat of closure is ever-present.

"Some of the criteria are things like the ability for a base and the surrounding civilian areas to absorb a large influx of service men and women in the event of an all out war," Keegan said. "Between Luke and the Phoenix metropolitan area, we have that ability, but we have to assume it's always a possible target for closure."

Keegan urges citizens and fellow lawmakers to remain vigilant in their support of Luke and the protection of surrounding areas, as recent events may prove to be a step in the right direction.

"I feel heartened by the criteria because an objective analysis will show Luke capable of meeting it's mission and providing for the nation's security," he said. "The West Valley

communities have come together to address this issue and we have hired some experts in the area to help advise us on what is the best way to highlight Luke and it's value to the Department of Defense."

Keegan said he is skeptical of efforts to acquire the land surrounding Luke, but remains hopeful.

"I've seen several different proposals and I'm very supportive of anything that works," he said. "I'm concerned that some may be a good idea, but not politically possible."

Sen. Jack Harper, R-District 4, said measures to protect the base are well underway.

"The Arizona Legislature and me in particular, are doing everything we can to protect our military bases," Harper said. "I believe the legislature will send a strong signal that we want to keep our bases."

Housing growth near Luke has raised concerns that encroachment could make the facility a candidate for closure.

Harper said state legislators are responding to those concerns by rallying around bills that allocate enough funding to stop encroachment by buying the land surrounding the base.

"Trent Franks (U.S. Representative, R-District 2) was able to get the \$14.3 million from the federal government to protect our bases, and we need to match that," Harper said, adding he is lobbying for those matching funds in the senate.

Rep. Phil Hanson, R-District 9, also introduced a bill into the house of representatives seeking an allocation of \$3.5 million for the same reason, Harper said.

"The next step is to pass these bills protecting our bases and the training

routes," Harper said.

Arizona's five military bases generate more than \$5.6 billion a year and Luke provides \$1.4 billion of that, according to a 2002 study commissioned by the state.

One-quarter of the nation's military bases will be targeted for shutdown in 2005 as the Pentagon seeks to transform the armed services into a leaner, more mobile fighting force. A nine-member base-closure commission will be appointed by President Bush by March 5.

The Arizona Legislature and Gov. Janet Napolitano are working on measures to protect the state's bases. In addition, the state's congressional delegation has been able to acquire a total of \$27.3 million over the last two years in federal money to buy land in Luke's critical southern departure corridor.

Annie Karstens can be reached at 876-2532 or at akarstens@aztrib.com.

Surprise Today

PAGE: Internet

DATE: 04-Mar-04



AETC Bases News Clips

LUKE AFB, AZ



News Clips are compiled for the AETC Commander and staff by AETC/PA. Copyright restrictions apply. **04-Mar-04**

Environment risks high at former bases

Even though the Defense Department's criteria for closing military bases is primarily focused on the military value of the facilities (*The Republic*, Feb. 25), the local communities need to keep in mind the potential environmental hazards of turning military bases over to non-military use.

While Pentagon spokesman Glenn Flood implied that Luke Air Force Base is relatively clean compared with other bases, the public needs to be reminded that the base was listed as an EPA Superfund site from 1990 through 2002.

Delisting the site in 2002 was accompanied by specific restrictions, including prohibitions on residential development and the requiring of personal protective equipment in the case of excavation. The economic and military impacts of closing Luke are important to discuss, but the environmental risks of post-military civilian use should not be neglected.

— Steve Eastman
Tempe

The Arizona Republic

PAGE: Internet

DATE: 04-Mar-04



AETC Bases News Clips

LUKE AFB, AZ



News Clips are compiled for the AETC Commander and staff by AETC/PA. Copyright restrictions apply. **04-Mar-04**

Commission is created to protect military bases

By David Madrid
The Arizona Republic

Gov. Janet Napolitano has created a permanent Military Affairs Commission to deal with the long-term preservation and growth of the state's military installations.

It's the second group Napolitano has put together to address military issues. The Military Facilities Task Force finished its work in December after seven months of crafting a plan to protect all the state's bases. In a press conference Tuesday, the governor said the new commission will monitor and make recommendations on executive, legislative and federal actions in order to sustain and grow Arizona's network of military installations, training ranges and military airspace.

The 15-person commission will be co-chaired by Lisa Atkins, executive director of the



Tim Koors/The Arizona Republic

Gov. Janet Napolitano wants to safeguard military bases.

County Supervisors Association of Arizona, and retired Air Force Lt. Gen. Gene Santarelli of Tucson.

Mayors James Cavanaugh of Goodyear, Bob Walkup of Tucson and Tom Hessler of Sierra Vista will join County Supervisors Lenore Stuart of Yuma County and Sandie Smith of Pinal County on the commission.

Some members of the gover-

nor's former Military Facilities Task Force also are on the team: retired Air Force Brig. Gen. Thomas Browning, retired Marine Corps Lt. Gen. Bob Johnston, Thomas Finnegan of Sierra Vista and Monsignor Richard W. O'Keeffe of Yuma.

Michael Francis, president of the West Valley Community Action Coalition, a group of farmers who live near Luke Air Force Base, and Priscilla Storm of Diamond Ventures, a developer in Tucson, are also on the commission. The state House and Senate will each choose a commissioner as well.

Arizona's five major military bases generate more than \$5.6 billion a year. They are Luke, Davis-Monthan Air Force Base in Tucson, Fort Huachuca in Sierra Vista, the Yuma Proving Ground and the Yuma Marine Corps Air Station.

The Arizona Republic

PAGE: Internet

DATE: 04-Mar-04



AETC Bases News Clips

Sheppard AFB, TX



News Clips are compiled for the AETC Commander and staff by AETC/PA. Copyright restrictions apply. **03-Mar-04**

Cornyn briefed on Sheppard investigation

By Tara Copp/Scripps Howard News Service
March 3, 2004

WASHINGTON - In a follow-up to last week's Senate hearings on sexual assaults in the military, Air Force vice chief Gen. Michael Moseley met again with Sen. John Cornyn to update him on the investigation at Sheppard Air Force Base.

Moseley reiterated that each command of the Air Force is now looking at existing policies to handle sexual assaults and that each will be reporting back to the Pentagon.

Moseley emphasized that "the Air Force has encouraged (Air Education and Training Command) to contact women who had served at Sheppard over the past five years in order to ensure we take a comprehensive look at the situation there," said spokesman Lt. Col. Mike Caldwell.

Cornyn asked that the Air Force "stay on top of this, and ensure that the problem never grows again."

"This issue requires our constant attention, and cooperation on the local, installation, and national level to protect our military men and women from future crimes and the damage they do to morale, unit cohesion and leadership," Cornyn said.

While he had Moseley's ear, Cornyn also asked about the F/A-22 Raptor. A \$22 million training hub for the next-generation fighter plane was budgeted for Sheppard in 2005, but the plane is being studied by the Pentagon to see if its capabilities still fit in the transformation mission of the Air Force.

Cornyn stressed to Moseley that in terms of transformation of the military, the F/A-22 is what "Rumsfeld is looking for, and that the military is so successfully employing."

Cornyn also used the opportunity to discuss the 2005 base closure round with Moseley, specifically asking about the Air Force's focus on jointness.

Moseley is a member of the BRAC Infrastructure Steering Group, which is in charge of the all the Joint Cross Service Groups.

These groups are responsible for incorporating jointness, the combining of operations among the military branches, into the BRAC process, Cornyn said, so the idea of transformation and jointness, particularly given the weapons systems used and built in the state, were key points of conversation.

Times Record News
PAGE: Faxed
DATE: 03-Mar-04



AETC Bases News Clips

Sheppard AFB, TX



News Clips are compiled for the AETC Commander and staff by AETC/PA. Copyright restrictions apply. **03-Mar-04**

Air Force to expand Sheppard probe

Investigators will now contact all servicewomen
stationed at base in last five years

From staff, wire reports

The Air Force has agreed to expand an investigation at Sheppard Air Force Base that was prompted by reports of two dozen rapes over a 12-month period, Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison said Friday.

Investigators will now contact all servicewomen stationed at the base over the past five years, not just new women as the military originally planned, Hutchison said in a statement.

"This will ensure a more comprehensive evaluation of the current situation at Sheppard," said Hutchison, R-Texas. "It will also better prepare the Air Force to take all steps necessary to achieve a healthier and safer training environment."

The announcement came a day after the base received the review's preliminary results.

In the report, most students at the base said they believe the leadership handles

assault allegations effectively, and 95 percent of female students said they felt safe there, according to an Air Force news release.

David Smith, a spokesman with the San Antonio-based Air Education and Training Command that is conducting the investigation, declined to comment on the expansion.

Hutchison said she asked for the expanded investigation because she was concerned by some of the preliminary findings, including a report that 10 percent of students lack confidence in base leadership.

"That number should be close to zero," she said.

The review found students might not report sexual assaults because of concerns their training would be delayed or that they might be disciplined for misconduct.

Please see
PROBE on Page 10A



AETC Bases News Clips

Sheppard AFB, TX



News Clips are compiled for the AETC Commander and staff by AETC/PA. Copyright restrictions apply.

03-Mar-04

PROBE continued from Page 1A

such as underage drinking, according to the Air Force. They also worried about embarrassment, loss of confidentiality and peer pressure.

But it also said base agencies have good resources to respond to reports of sexual assault and to assist victims. It suggested expanding training for students and others to put more emphasis on sexual assault awareness, deterrence and reporting.

Base officials said Friday they remain committed to student safety.

"Our focus remains on programs that are designed to first deter sexual assault, but also equally important are those programs designed

to ensure the well-being of the victim when a sexual assault does occur, and to swiftly investigate the truth and hold those responsible accountable," they said in a statement.

The review was prompted by a report in the *Denver Post* that cited First Step Inc. figures that between 20 to 25 Sheppard women said they were raped in the 12 months ending last August. The command's investigative team interviewed more than 1,000 people at the base and surveyed more than 5,000 students.

The Air Education and Training Command said a review of 45 sexual assault

cases at Sheppard from 1993 to 2003 that resulted in completed courts-martial or non-judicial punishments showed these cases were handled appropriately.

The command is reviewing 69 investigations since 1996 that did not result in either courts-martial or nonjudicial punishment.

About 3,800 airmen and 6,100 students are stationed at Sheppard's 82nd training wing, which does technical training. Another 450 pilots from 13 nations train every year at the base's 80th flying training wing. Those numbers include about 1,800 women.

Times Record News
PAGE: Faxed
DATE: 03-Mar-04



AETC Bases News Clips

LUKE AFB, AZ



News Clips are compiled for the AETC Commander and staff by AETC/PA. Copyright restrictions apply. **03-Mar-04**

Hold the torches and pitchforks

To the editor:

I feel compelled to clarify a few things before I'm burned at the stake.

In the first place, I don't have a problem with the mission of

Luke Air Force Base, only the blasting noise of low-flying jets, which I might add, has been reduced (with few exceptions) to an acceptable level.

I was born in Ray, Arizona, and raised in Phoenix before Luke was built. I was stationed at Luke in the '50s and have no desire to see the base removed.

My apologies to Ed Tilton, my intention was not to use you, but to add a little humor into the equation.

Last but not least, my thanks to the *West Valley View* for providing "Letters to the Editor." This format provides an opportunity to express our opinions, listen to others, draw conclusions and alter our opinions accordingly in a democratic partnership with our communities, military, commercial and industrial neighbors.

Lewis Shortridge
Goodyear

West Valley View

PAGE: Internet

DATE: 03-Mar-04



AETC Bases News Clips

LUKE AFB, AZ



News Clips are compiled for the AETC Commander and staff by AETC/PA. Copyright restrictions apply. **03-Mar-04**

Luke was here long before you

To the editor:

We would like to respond to the letter in last week's paper from Lew Shortridge, who objected to the noise from the Air Force jets.

First of, all, check your paperwork from the purchase of your house and see if you didn't sign a disclaimer concerning the proximity to Luke. If you don't find it, perhaps you can sue your developer, get your money back and move somewhere else.

Second, you should realize that

Luke was built way back in 1941. Other than sage, cactus, jackrabbits and farms there was nothing else there. Estrella Mountain Ranch came 40 years later.

We have been residents of Goodyear for the better part of 50 years. At one time what is now the Phoenix-Goodyear Airport was a Navy base where Navy pilots received training. One year we were entertained by the Blue Angels antics as they did their winter training here. What a show we enjoyed! As a community we've enjoyed the diversity the service people brought to our neighborhoods, from around the country and even abroad since Luke trained pilots from Allied countries.

The sound of jets has always been a part of our lives and one we appreciate. We know that the young people flying these jets are someone's sons or daughters who are training to protect our freedom. Upon completion, they may be sent to Iraq or Afghanistan to defend us and may pay the ultimate price for our freedom.

We hope you've looked around and realize that your home is within a couple of miles of a dairy farm, too. When the wind is just right you may get a whiff of "steak on the hoof."

Ken and Sally Kiko
Goodyear

Didn't do his homework

To the editor:

This letter is in regards to Lew Shortridge ("Luke should alter jets' flight paths"). How dare you come here and complain about the noise from jets! Luke has been there for many years, and why should they change just because you decide to move right

next to an Air Force Base.

If you were that concerned in the beginning, you might have spent a few days visiting the area to see for yourself if the noise was tolerable. It is so typical of people like you to move next to a landfill, Air Force base, airport or busy highway and then have the nerve to complain about it.

Seems to me that you should move somewhere else. And next time, look at your surroundings first before buying a house. With all the houses going up around here and many away from the base, surely your letter would have never been written. I love the fact that the base is here. If you don't, go back to Hawaii!!

Jen Jackson
Goodyear

Use your passion in positive way

To the editor:

Mr. Shortridge created quite a stir. I second the emotion. As a new resident, I offer this: You are in a beautiful area. Use your passion to make a difference for the better good. Luke Air Force Base is important to many people for many different reasons.

Find the pride in the jets flying over your new home. Find the pride that keeps our service people going from day to day. There may be a way for you to honor their choices as they honor yours by their service.

I thank them for giving me the opportunity to write a letter through the editor. I thank them for helping maintain the freedom to choose where I live.

Take responsibility for your choices.

Kristine Guevarra
Litchfield Park

Move back to Hawaii

To the editor:

Lew Shortridge, I am appalled by your letter. "Luke should alter flight paths," Feb. 11. Luke Air Force Base was built in the late 1930s as a training facility for pilots so that the United States could remain a free country. They have to train somewhere and when the facility was built, there wasn't anything but sand and cactus.

Estrella Mountain Ranch was built under the training facility and if your sales person played with the truth to make a sale, you need to take that up with her.

Every time you hear those afterburners, you should say a prayer for all the young men who are willing to take their life in the sky to save yours. Perhaps you should move back to Hawaii where I'm sure jet noise isn't a problem.

Sandra Kirkland
Avondale

Don't go away mad, just go away

To the editor:

In reference to "Luke should alter jet's flight path" by Lew Shortridge: Once again we hear the cries of the ignorant, it's all about-me whiner.

Is it a secret that Luke moved

here way before all of us? They moved here due to open area, and weather perfect for training. How dare you, Lew Shortridge, to think for a second the commander of Luke should accommodate you. Does anyone do their homework before moving and buying? Shame on you for pointing at everyone but you!

Populated developments are due to money-hungry, selfish buyers and developers. Maybe you'd be happier back in Kauai, Hawaii. Check out Baghdad, Iraq. Wait to hear the sounds of a jet overhead and thank the good Lord for the United States Air Force/Navy fliers. Quit sniveling all of you! Quit encroachment! Leave Luke in peace and to continue their training.

Once again: Go away. Don't go away mad, just go away.

J. E. Kanlan
Avondale

Don't blame Luke or jets

To the editor:

In response to Mr. Lew Shortridge of Goodyear, you heard the jets while you were looking to buy, so don't blame the base and the jets, blame yourself and the sales person. The base and jets were here before you, and if you can't take the noise then move. No one asked you to move here. We don't need your kind of people here.

My husband is a 25-year veteran and one of his few benefits is to have a base to take care of his needs. I think cemeteries are a great idea and the best idea would be a military cemetery. Just think, then you could apply to be a caretaker of the Dead Zone. Wouldn't that be a hoot!!

Barbara Jay
Phoenix

Noise is price of freedom

To the editor:

The price of freedom comes at a cost and it seems some don't get it.

The Luke AFB noise factor is a small price to pay for the freedoms we have come to take for granted. Best advice I can give is, repack and leave. Plenty of boxes available.

Ken Semmler
Goodyear



AETC Bases News Clips

LUKE AFB, AZ



News Clips are compiled for the AETC Commander and staff by AETC/PA. Copyright restrictions apply. **03-Mar-04**

Bill to bar gas storage near Luke on hold

By David Madrid
The Arizona Republic

A legislative bill that would prevent a natural-gas storage facility from being built within a nine-mile radius of Luke Air Force Base is in a holding pattern for at least another week as opposing sides negotiate.

Rep. Chuck Gray, R-Mesa, who was recently appointed as a committee chairman, has refused to hear House Bill 2134. House Speaker Jake Flake has appointed a small committee to work things out.

The bill's sponsor, Rep. John Nelson, R-Glendale, has agreed to amend the measure so it is specific to Luke.

El Paso Natural Gas Co. wants to store 9.6 billion cubic feet of natural gas near Luke in three mammoth salt caverns. A 35-mile-long, 36-inch pipeline would likely cross the base's southern departure corridor (where armed flights take off), skirt the base to the west and north and end at the storage facility on the east.

Gray said Friday he hadn't decided to kill the bill, but if it died and was determined to be needed, the issue could be revived.

He said he supports Luke but that the bill has problems, such as not accounting for property rights, population growth and inadequate natural-gas storage capacity and infrastructure in the state.

"It (the bill) doesn't address the issue of this is probably the best salt-dome formation in the state that could handle this kind of a storage facility," he said. "It also doesn't really address whether Luke's on the (base-closure) commission list or not, and we have to investigate how that plays out."

Nelson said West Valley cities and the base don't want the facility near Luke, so he isn't giving up on his bill.

The Arizona Republic

PAGE: Internet

DATE: 03-Mar-04